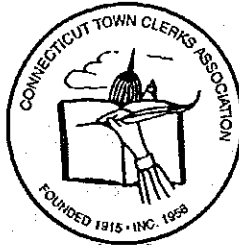


Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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2013/14 Legislative Committee

TESTIMONY

MARCH 3, 2014

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang and the distinguished members of the GAE Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on several proposals. My name is Essie Labrot, I'm the Town Clerk of West Hartford and the Legislative Chair of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association. The Town Clerks Association wishes to offer testimony on **House Bill 5360, *An Act Concerning the Certification of Candidates***, **Senate Bill 274, *An Act Concerning Certification Requirements for Minor Party Candidates*** and **Senate Bill 228, *An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Municipal Campaign Finance Filings***.

The Town Clerks Association supports **House Bill 5360** which would provide consistency for minor and major party required signatures on Candidates Certification as well as deadline specifics regarding receipt by the Secretary of the State or the town clerk. This bill provides clarity to town clerks who have the responsibility of determining eligibility and allows all major and minor party candidates the ability to authorize how their name will appear on the ballot. The fact that this legislation requires a signature of the candidate will confirm for the town clerk the intention of the candidate.

We would respectfully request an amendment to Section 2. We recommend the deletion of the sentence in line 99 to 106 which reads, "The registrars of voters of such municipality shall promptly verify and correct the names on any such list filed with the registrar, or the names of nominees forwarded to the clerk of the municipality by the Secretary of the State, in accordance with the registry list of such municipality and endorse the same as having been so verified and corrected." This sentence is no longer necessary because the function of correcting the name to match with the voter registry list is no longer required since the candidate will be determining how they would like their name to appear on the ballot. In addition the list is filed with the town clerk and not the registrar of voters. This amendment will reflect current practice and add greater clarity.

With the changes being sought in House Bill 5360, the Town Clerks Association believes that it's not necessary to act on **Senate Bill 274**.

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Finally, the Town Clerks Association supports the State Election Enforcement Commission's proposal, **Senate Bill 228**, which seeks to establish a pilot program for the filing of municipal campaign finance documents. This legislation has the potential to increase efficiency and provide easier access for the public.

Thank you for raising these bills, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.